[Sri A. J. John]

Ayurveda

46. A faculty of Ayurveda is proposed to be established under the Travancore University. A provision of Rs. 2 lakhs has been made in the Budget for 1951-52 for starting a degree course in the Ayurveda College. Government consider it necessary to extend the activities of the Ayurveda Pharmacies and new pharmacies will be opened in important centres in the State. Provision has also been made in the Budget for giving grants-in-aid to new private dispensaries, and for increasing the grants to existing ones.

Public Works Department

47. The Budget for the next year provides for Rs. 202 lakhs for expenditure under Public Works against Rs. 164 lakhs in the revised budget for the current year. The maintenance of National Highways is the responsibility of the Government of India according to the terms of federal financial integration. We have decided to provide dustless surfacing to the remaining District roads. A special fund for this scheme has been created and a sum of Rs. 14·47 lakhs is provided for this purpose in the next year's budget. Though it means large initial capital expenditure, it will substantially curtail the maintenance expenditure for the coming years besides providing better facilities for communication immediately.

48. A new scheme consisting of two 5 year plans has been sanctioned for the development of village roads. Survey has already been conducted and new plans and blue prints are ready for a few taluks. A "Village Road Development Fund" has been constituted during the current year with a nucleus of Rs. 4 lakhs and a provision of Rs. 10 lakhs has been made for the ensuing year. There is provision for such works in the Village Uplift Department also.

49. The rural Water Supply Schemes to Cape, and several villages in the south have already been taken up in addition to the Water Supply Schemes at Muttom and other Centres, which are being continued. The investigation for supply of Alwaye water to Vypeen Pallippuram *via* Vadakkekara is in progress. Provision has also been made to complete the works previously financed from the Canal and Road Development Fund.

50. *Veterinary.*—With a view to salvaging dry cows and improving the stock and breed, a Pilot Key Village Scheme will be started with a subsidy from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Provision has also been made for a scheme for improving poultry farming.

Industries

51. I am glad to announce that almost all the State-sponsored industrial concerns have already turned the corner. They have registered considerable progress during the year and are slowly beginning to earn profits. Insufficient finance for full capital commitments, caused by increases in the price of building materials and machinery, had arrested the progress of some of these concerns for some time. But the timely and liberal help rendered by Government in deserving cases enabled them to push on with their programme. The most outstanding results are those of the Travancore Cements Ltd., the Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd., the Travancore Rayons Ltd., the Aluminium Industries Ltd., the Alagappa Textiles Ltd., and the Balarama Varma Textiles. A new textile mill, the Asok Textiles, has started working in Alwaye and proposals are under consideration for expanding production in other cotton mills in the area. The Jamna thread mills, Koratti Angadi, is expected to be ready for the production of sewing thread before the end of 1951.

52. A Caustic Soda plant is being put up at Alwaye, while the building of the Rare Earths Factory has already started. Arrangements are also progressing for

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putting up an Electric Meter Factory, while negotiations are going on with a prominent Firm of American manufacturers to set up a tyre factory in the State. The present state of Rubber Plantation industry is a convincing proof of the need for setting up a plant in the State to consume the rubber produced in the State.

53. The reorganisation and development of the Government-owned Industrial concerns are also engaging the attention of Government. The Travancore Rubber Works which was taken over under Government management last year is working satisfactorily. The question of expanding and reorganising the production of plywood and Ceramics in the State, is being considered. Government have acquired the Associated Mineral Concern at Chavara, with a view to running it along with the Travancore Minerals Concerns under the same management. The Travancore Minerals Concerns which was acquired by Government in 1949 has yielded satisfactory results and it is hoped that the addition of the new concern will substantially enhance our profits. Action is also being taken to reorganise the Shark Liver Oil factory on a commercial basis.

54. *Lemon Grass Breeding.*—The State produces nearly 80 per cent of the world's supply of lemon grass oil. A scheme of research was started this year for genetical experiments to evolve a superior variety of grass which will have a higher citral content. An experimental Lemon Grass breeding centre and Pilot-plant are also contemplated.

Labour

55. The labour situation was satisfactory during the year. There were some strikes and lock-outs in some of the big factories, but with the constitution and regular functioning of the three Industrial Tribunals, labour disputes are being amicably settled. It is also a matter of satisfaction that most of the industrial concerns have agreed to participate in our housing scheme for Industrial labour and to contribute their share to supplement the interest-free loans proposed to be given by Government.

Cottage Industries

56. In my last speech, I had referred to the constitution of the Cottage Industries Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. J. Thomas for exploring the possibilities of developing the existing and potential cottage industries in the State. That Committee has conducted a comprehensive survey and the data collected are being consolidated. Meanwhile they have submitted an interim report outlining the more important measures to be undertaken. This report is now under the consideration of Government. The constitution of a Cottage Industries Board, the organisation of a Central Cottage Industries Research Centre and the starting of a Polytechnic are some of the important recommendations of the Committee. We have included a lump sum of Rs. 11 lakhs in the next year's budget for implementing the main proposals of the Committee and we hope to make substantial progress in this direction next year.

Advancement of Backward Communities

57. The amelioration of the condition of Backward Communities is receiving the special attention of the Government. We have been making progressively liberal provision of funds for the Uplift Backward Communities as may be seen from the following figures.

Year	*Amount of payment Rs. in lakhs*
1124 (Actuals)	2·80
1949-50 (7½ months of 1125—actuals)	2·70
1950-51 (Revised Estimate)	9·88
1951-52 (Budget Estimate)	12·61

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